

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 16 are pending in the present application, of which claims 10 – 16 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 9 have each been amended. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated September 22, 2004.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner maintains the following rejection:

claims 1-9 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Ishioka et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,703,849, of record).

This rejection is respectfully.

With regard to Applicants' argument Ishioka discloses a structure in which the inspection unit 1, which includes a sensor unit and conductive member, is disposed on one side of the circuit board 100, and therefore fails to disclose the features of independent claims 1 and 9, the Examiner agrees.

However, the Examiner "respectfully asserts that the claim language does not describe the differences. Specifically, the language 'with opposing to said conductive member' is not an accurate way to describe the differences and is substantially indefinite language. The Examiner submits that 'with opposing to said conductive member' could be reasonably interpreted to mean

a multiplicity of different arrangements including, but certainly not limited to, both the arrangement in Exhibit A.”¹

In view of the above, the term “with opposing to said conductive member” has been deleted from each of independent claims 1 and 9. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner’s position that the claim language does not describe the differences between Ishioka and claims 1 and 9 is weak, since, for example, claim 1 calls for a conductive member adapted to be disposed on the side of one of the surfaces of said circuit board and ... a plurality of cells adapted to be disposed on the side of the other surface of said circuit board.

That is, the present claimed invention clearly sets forth that the conductive member is disposed on one surface of the circuit board and a plurality of cells are disposed on the other surface of the circuit board. Clearly, as successfully argued in Applicants’ last response dated August 5, 2004, Ishioka fails to disclose such an arrangement.

More specifically, while the present invention and Ishioka et al. both relate to an inspection apparatus for inspecting a circuit wiring of a circuit board, however, as shown in the drawing, Exhibit A, submitted with Applicants’ Response dated August 5, 2004, Ishioka et al. discloses a structure in which the inspection unit 1 is disposed on one side of the circuit board 100. This means that the inspection unit 1 of Ishioka et al. includes a sensor unit and conductive member. However, Ishioka et al. fails to disclose that a conductive member is adapted to be disposed on the side of one of the surfaces of the circuit board and to be supplied with an

¹ Please see, the bridging paragraph between pages 4 and 5 of the outstanding Action .

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inspection signal, and a plurality of cells are adapted to be disposed on the side of the other surface of the circuit board, as now called for in the present claimed invention and as shown in the example of an embodiment of the present invention in the drawing, Exhibit A, submitted with Applicants' Response dated August 5, 2004.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicant requests such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case. If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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